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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/839,771	04/20/2001	Michael T. Brown	10011539-1	2034

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRONG NHAN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2152

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/839,771	BROWN, MICHAEL T.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jack P. Nguyen	2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-12, 18-20, 24 and 25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-7, 14-17 and 21-23 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on 1/7/05. Claims 8-13 and 18-20 are canceled. Claims 1-7, 14-17, and 21-25 are being examined.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Group 1: Claims 1-7, 14-17, and 21-23 are drawn to a method for controlling or limiting access to resources on a network in 709, subclass 229.
- II. Group 2: Claims 24-25 are drawn to a method for providing a graphical user interface wherein the items of information are organized into a group or list from which the user can make a choice in class 715, subclass 739.

Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. Invention I has a separate utility such as allowing only authorized users to access certain resources on the network. Invention II has a separate utility such as presenting a user with a graphical user interface with a list or group of items the user can select or choose from. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

These inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, and the search required for each Group is different and not co-extensive for examination purpose. For example, the searches for the two inventions would not be co-extensive because these groups would require different searches on PTO's classification class and subclass as following:

(a) Group I search (claims 1-7, 14-17, and 21-23) would require use of search

Class 709, subclass 229.

(b) Group II search (claims 24-25) would require use of search **Class 715, subclass 739.**

Newly submitted claims 24-25 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the limitations call for presenting a user with a graphical user interface with a list or group of items the user can select or choose from.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 24-25 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claims 1-7, 14-17, and 21-23 are now presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites, "...from the user of a person that the user authorizes..." The term 'the user' is used twice in the claim. It's difficult to distinguish between which user the claim is referring to. In order to prosecute the claim, Examiner interprets the claim to mean, "from the user of another person that the user authorizes"

or "from a different user that the user authorizes." Applicant is suggested to clarify the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art, US Pub 2002/0156895 (Applicant hereafter) in view of Adamson, 5,818,442 (Adamson hereafter).

As per claims 1 and 15, Applicant discloses a method for sharing contact information storing a user's contact information in a publicly-accessible database that is accessed over a network [page 1, paragraph 0005; users can store their contact information in a database of a public Internet web site [e.g., www.ecardfile.com]]. Applicant does not explicitly disclose receiving an identification and request from an authorized user to access contact data and exchanging contact information between authorized users. However, in a related art to the claimed invention, Adamson discloses an electronic conferencing system where conferees can join and exchange data with each other (conferees are able to communicate with each other through a

multi-point control unit 'MCU' conferencing system (16, fig. 2); col. 3, lines 45-50; MCU identifies and authenticates all users in the conferencing system). Once conferees are joined together in the conference, the conferees are capable requesting and sharing their contact information (via electronic business cards 'EBC') with each other; i.e., only identified and authorized users are able to see or exchange data with each other (col. 4, lines 19-23; col. 7, lines 35-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to be motivated to apply security parameters to contact information in order to protect private contact information from unauthorized access.

Claims 2-3 are rejected on basis of claim 1.

As per claim 4, Adamson teaches the step of receiving identification comprises receiving one of the person's email address (41f, fig. 5)).

As per claim 5, Adamson teaches enabling the person to access the user's contact information comprises adding the person's identity to an approved list associated with the user's contact information (26, fig. 3, col. 4, lines 41-45; *user can select from a list of authorized conferees to exchange and share data in an electronic conference managed by conference manager 'MCU'.*)

As per claims 6 and 16, Adamson teaches a user profile that stores various user preferences of the user (28, fig. 3, col. 4, lines 47-52). For example, one of the user preferences could include restricting part of the contact information such as personal home telephone number from public knowledge or certain groups of conferees or sharing only some particular contact data with a particular conferee or group of conferees (e.g., private home numbers may be shared only between members of the

emergency team). Even though Adamson does not elaborate on the particulars of the user preferences, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to restrict certain private data such as personal home phone numbers or addresses from certain groups of conferees while allowing certain private data accessible to selected groups of conferees in order to protect the privacy of the users.

Claims 7, 17 and 23 are rejected for the similar rationale as claims 5 and 6. Since users can set or update their user preferences as desired, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to revoke access of the information at anytime by removing the other user's name from the approved conference user list.

Claim 14 is rejected on the similar rationale of claims 1 and 6.

Claims 21-22 are rejected by similar rationale as claim 6.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/7/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As to point 1: Applicant asserts that it is improper to user Applicant's own work to recite against Applicant's claims. However, this is not the case. Examiner cites Applicant's admitted prior art (as disclosed in the Background section) against the Applicant's claims, not Applicant's own work as described in the Specification.

As to point 2: Applicant further asserts Adamson does not disclose or teach, "... storing a user's contact information in a publicly-accessible database that is

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accessed over a network.” However, applicant admitted prior art (as cited by Examiner) discloses users can store their contact information in a database of a public web site (e.g., www.ecardfile.com) that is accessible by any user connected to the Internet (Brown – section 0005).

As to point 3: Applicant asserts Adamson does not disclose or suggest, “receiving identification from the user of a person that the user authorizes to access the user’s contact information.” This limitation has been amended in the newly amended claim; i.e., this limitation does not exist in the original claim. Regardless, Adamson discloses an electronic conferencing system where conferees can join and exchange data with each other (conferees are able to communicate with each other through a multi-point control unit ‘MCU’ conferencing system (16, fig. 2); col. 3, lines 45-50; MCU identifies and authenticates all users in the conferencing system). Once conferees are joined together in the conference, the conferees are capable requesting and sharing their contact information (via electronic business cards ‘EBC’) with each other; i.e., only identified and authorized users are able to see or exchange data with each other (col. 4, lines 19-23; col. 7, lines 35-40).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure – US Pat 6,654,778; 5,793,972; 6,205,478; 6,341,290; 6,266,690; 6,018,761; 5,889,958

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

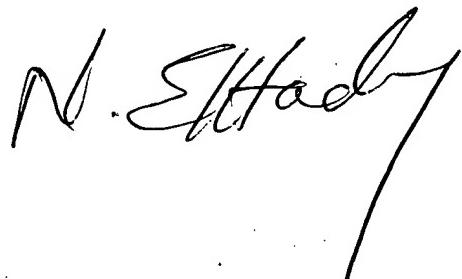
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack P Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 605-4299. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jpn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Eddy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.